



**NEA OPERA HONORS  
2008 INAUGURAL AWARDS CONCERT**

**2008 HONOREES**

*Leontyne Price*

*Carlisle Floyd*

*Richard Gaddes*

*James Levine*

**October 31, 2008**

**8:00 p.m.**

**Sidney Harman Hall**

**Harman Center for the Arts**

**Washington, D.C.**

Made possible in part through the generous support of Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long

This evening's video tributes, photographs and extended interviews with the honorees will be available on the NEA Opera Honors web site at [www.neaoperahonors.org](http://www.neaoperahonors.org).

# PROGRAM

**Overture** Prelude, *Amelia al ballo (Amelia Goes to the Ball)* by Gian Carlo Menotti

Conductors for the evening: Plácido Domingo and Israel Gursky

**Welcome** Susan Graham, mezzo-soprano  
Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

## IN TRIBUTE TO JAMES LEVINE

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**Presenter** Plácido Domingo, General Director, Washington National Opera

**Fugue:** “Tutto nel mondo è burla” from *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi

Falstaff	Richard Bernstein
Pistola	Oleksandr Pushniak*
Ford	Nathan Herfindahl*
Cajus	José Ortega*
Bardolfo	Jesus Hernandez*
Fenton	Tim Augustin
Quickly	Ann Quintero
Meg	Brandy Hawkins*
Alice	Jennifer Waters*
Nannetta	JiYoung Lee*

\*Throughout this program, an asterisk indicates a current or former member of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

One of Maestro Levine’s favorite operatic ensembles, this finely-crafted scene represents the culmination of composer Giuseppe Verdi’s prolific career. *Falstaff*, Verdi’s final operatic work, which is based on Shakespeare’s *Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, is a piece rampant with trickery and mayhem. In this scene, the opera’s finale, Sir John Falstaff proclaims that “*Tutto nel mondo è burla*” — all the world is folly and all are figures of fun.

## IN TRIBUTE TO CARLISLE FLOYD

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Presenter      Marc A. Scorca, President/CEO, OPERA America

“Ain’t it a pretty night” from *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd

Aundi Marie Moore, soprano\*

*Susannah*, which received its premiere in 1955 at Florida State University, is one of the most-performed American operas in history. Sung today by a talented alumna of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, “Ain’t it a pretty night?” is arguably the most recognized piece of Mr. Floyd’s body of work. The aria, which has been added to the repertoires of such distinguished artists as Phyllis Curtin, Renée Fleming and Dawn Upshaw, distills all of *Susannah*’s small town frustrations and far-reaching dreams into a lush gem of an aria.

## IN TRIBUTE TO RICHARD GADDES

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Presenter      Susan Graham

Act II Finale (excerpt) from *Le nozze di Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Countess	Barbara Quintiliani*
Count	Trevor Scheunemann*
Susanna	JiYoung Lee*
Antonio	Oleksandr Pushniak*
Figaro	Richard Bernstein

In this, Mr. Gaddes’ most beloved scene from Mozart’s treasured opera, Count Almaviva and company are embroiled in a comic mess of deception and mistaken identity. The jealous Count suspects the page boy Cherubino might be lurking around his wife, and when the gardener Antonio rushes in to tell him a man has just jumped into the geraniums, Figaro, Susanna and the Countess are forced to invent fantastic stories to cover Cherubino’s tracks — a task that gets more complicated by the moment. This musically and dramatically delightful scene brings the second act of *Le nozze di Figaro* to a close.

## IN TRIBUTE TO LEONTYNE PRICE

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Presenters Dana Gioia, James Levine

“Song to the Moon” from *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák

Sondra Radvanovsky, soprano

In *Rusalka*, the fairy tale of *The Little Mermaid* is brought to the operatic stage by the symphonic master, Antonin Dvořák. Rusalka, a water nymph, has fallen in love with a handsome young prince and longs to become human in order to be with him. Rusalka confesses to the moon the secret of her longing and asks the moon to tell the prince of her love in an aria famous as one of the most romantic yet most chaste of all operatic love songs. The lamenting melodic lines evoke beauty, longing and serenity. Tonight, this aria is our love song for the artistry of Leontyne Price.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Plácido Domingo** has sung 126 roles, more than any other leading tenor in history. He has performed at every important opera house, recorded 102 operas, won 11 Grammy Awards and appeared in more than 50 videos and three major opera films. He has also conducted many of the world’s great opera ensembles and orchestras, and he is General Director of Washington National Opera and Los Angeles Opera. He is a Commander of France’s Legion of Honor and an Honorary Knight of the British Empire; he has been a Kennedy Center Honoree and has received the U.S. Medal of Freedom and the World Award for Humanitarian Causes. In 2008, Domingo sang at the Papal mass during Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to Washington, performed at the closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics and celebrated his fortieth anniversary at the Metropolitan Opera. In 2009, the Madrid-born artist will mark his fiftieth anniversary in opera.

Metropolitan Opera star **Susan Graham** launched the 2008-9 season hosting *The Met: Live in HD* on opening night, interviewing Martha Stewart, New York’s Mayor Bloomberg and a host of other celebrities. The Grammy Award-winner from Midland, Texas captivates audiences with her voice, graceful stature and acting. She sang at President Bush’s January 2005 Inauguration, at every major opera house in the world and calls the Metropolitan Opera her home. Graham was even honored by her home town with an annual “Susan Graham Day,” September 5. This year, Graham — a “Commandeur dans l’ordre des Arts et des Lettres,” France’s highest artistic honor — hosts the *Opera News* Awards in New York and sings at the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall, as well as in Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, London, Paris, Prague and Vienna. Graham’s newest CD is *Un frisson français*, a survey of French songs.

Soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky**'s dramatic stage presence and stunning vocal qualities have firmly established her as one of the rising stars on the international stage today. She has been hailed as one of the great Verdi singers of the new generation and critically acclaimed for her performances as Roxanne in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Leonora in *Il trovatore*, Violetta in *La traviata*, Hélène in *Les vêpres Siciliennes* and Elisabetta in *Don Carlo*. Sondra has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the Cologne Opera, l'Opéra de Paris, Vienna Staatsoper, Teatro alla Scala, and in Toronto, Moscow, Chicago and Japan. In addition to her appearance in Washington, D.C., this season features a return to LA Opera for her debut in the title role of *Suor Angelica* and to the Metropolitan Opera in one of her signature roles, Leonora in Verdi's *Il trovatore*. She will reprise this role at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in the spring.

## WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA ORCHESTRA

**Heinz Fricke, Music Director**

### Violin I

Oleg Rylatko,  
Concertmaster  
Eric Lee,  
Associate Concertmaster  
Yvonne Lam,  
Assistant Concertmaster  
Zino Bogachek+  
Joan Cataldo  
Michelle Kim  
Karen Lowry-Tucker  
Susan Midkiff\*\*  
Margaret Thomas  
Charlie Whitten  
Najin Kim\*

### Violin II

Julia Grueninger Cox,  
Principal  
Joel Fuller,  
Assistant Principal  
Richard Chang+  
Xi Chen  
Jessica Dan Fan  
Martha Kaufman  
Timothy Macek  
Victoria Noyes

### Viola

Shelley Coss, Principal  
Evelyn Harpham,  
Assistant Principal  
Philippe Chao+  
Leon Neal  
Elizabeth Pulju-Owen  
Uri Wassertzug

### Cello

Amy Frost Baumgarten,  
Principal  
Elizabeth Davis,  
Assistant Principal  
Ignacio Alcover+  
Amy Ward Butler  
Timothy H. Butler  
Igor Zubkovsky

### Bass

Robert D'Imperio,  
Principal\*\*  
Frank Carnovale,  
Assistant Principal  
John Ricketts  
Jeff Koczela\*

### Flute

Adria Sternstein Foster,  
Principal  
Stephani Stang-McCusker,  
Assistant Principal  
John Lagerquist

### Piccolo

John Lagerquist

### Oboe

Igor Leschishin, Principal  
Carole Libelo,  
Assistant Principal  
Kathleen Golding

### English Horn

Carole Libelo

### Clarinet

David Jones, Principal  
Lora Ferguson,  
Assistant Principal  
Stephen Bates

### Bass Clarinet

Stephen Bates

### Bassoon

Donald Shore, Principal  
Christopher Jewell,  
Assistant Principal  
Nancy Stutsman

### Contrabassoon

Nancy Stutsman

### Horn

Gregory Drone, Principal  
John Peiffer,  
Assistant Principal  
Robert Odmark  
Peter de Boor  
Geoffrey Pilkington

### Trumpet

Tim White, Principal  
Christopher Tranchitella,  
Assistant Principal  
Michael Rossi

### Trombone

Lee Rogers, Principal

Donald King,  
Assistant Principal  
Stephen Dunkel

### Bass Trombone

Stephen Dunkel

### Tuba/Cimbasso

Michael Bunn, Principal

### Timpani

Jonathan Rance, Principal  
Greg Akagi,  
Assistant Principal

### Percussion

John Spirtas, Principal  
Greg Akagi  
Bill Richards\*

### Harp

Susan Robinson, Principal

+ Begins the alphabetical listing of musicians who participate in a system of revolving within the string section.

\* Guest Musician

\*\* On leave

Aaron Doty,  
Orchestra Personnel and  
Operations Manager  
Shelley Friedman,  
Music Librarian

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The National Endowment for the Arts wishes to acknowledge the 110th Congress of the United States for the enabling legislation to create the NEA Opera Honors.

For their gracious support of the reception preceding the NEA Opera Honors Awards Concert, we sincerely thank Bob and Miryam Knutson.

For her generosity in hosting the champagne reception following the Awards Concert, our thanks to Marcia V. Mayo.

For their role in imagining, creating and implementing the NEA Opera Honors, we extend our heartfelt thanks to these individuals.



## **The National Endowment for the Arts**

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Patrice Walker Powell, Deputy Chairman for States, Regions, and Local Arts Agencies; Douglas Sonntag, Director of Dance; Court Burns, Music Specialist; Robert Frankel, Acting Deputy Chairman for Grants & Awards and Director of Museums and Visual Arts



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Research and Writing	Katrine Ames
Video Tributes Director	Greg Emetaz
Public Relations	M. L. Falcone
Logo and Commemorative Program	Falcone Design Group
Rights and Clearances	Janice Mayer
Project Manager	Yuval Sharon



## Washington National Opera

General Director	Plácido Domingo
Executive Director	Mark J. Weinstein
Assistant to the General Director, WNO Center for Education and Training	Michelle Krisel
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Music Administrator/Assistant Chorus Master	Ken Weiss
Director of Advancement and External Relations	Shayne Doty
Director of Special Events	Patti Humphrey
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Front of House Manager	Cal Barnes
Manager of Harman Events	Genevieve Cooper
Stage Operations Supervisor	Louie Baxter
Master Electrician	Sean R. McCarthy
Assistant Master Electrician	Lily Bradford
Audio Supervisor	Martin Desjardins
Event Audio/Visual Engineer	Jennifer Foster
Wardrobe	Katherine Share and Rebekah Nettekoven Tello

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## Production Staff

Production Management	SiG PRODUCTIONS, llc
Associate Production Manager	Sarah R. Robinson
Lighting Design	Martha J. Mountain
Production Stage Manager	David A. Dreyfoos
Assistant Stage Managers	Steven Scott Mazzola and Sarah R. Robinson
Walkers	Kimberly Mauldin John Moletress Tselane Prescott James Roemer
Lobby and Stage Florals	Chester Hardison
Lobby Décor and Exterior Lighting	Fandango, Inc. & Baltimore Searchlight Services

We are deeply grateful to the following organizations and individuals who made the production of the Video Tributes possible:

**James Levine Video Tribute**

Matt Black, video editor

*Photography courtesy of:*

The Cleveland Orchestra Archives  
The Metropolitan Opera Archives

*Video courtesy of:*

The Metropolitan Opera Archives  
Video Research, Inc.

*Music courtesy of:*

The Metropolitan Opera Archives:  
*Die Meistersinger, Don Giovanni, Wozzeck*  
Universal Music Classical:  
*Otello, Götterdämmerung*

**Carlisle Floyd Video Tribute**

Daniel Heffernan, video editor

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Houston Grand Opera  
Fort Worth Opera  
The private collection of Carlisle Floyd  
*Opera News*

*Video courtesy of:*

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*Audio courtesy of:*

Houston Grand Opera:  
*Susannah, Of Mice and Men*  
Albany Records and Boosey & Hawkes:  
*Cold Sassy Tree*

**Richard Gaddes Video Tribute**

Antonia Grilikhes-Lasky, video editor

*Photography and video courtesy of:*

The Santa Fe Opera  
Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

*Music courtesy of:*

Allegro Corporation: *Le nozze di Figaro*  
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Ytalianna Music Publishing LLC and  
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**Leontyne Price Video Tribute**

Greg Emetaz, video editor

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Lyric Opera of Chicago  
Marian Anderson Society and Delar  
Studios, New York  
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The Metropolitan Opera Archives  
Musical America Worldwide  
Carnegie Hall for *The New York Times*  
The private collection of Leontyne Price

*Videos courtesy of:*

The Metropolitan Opera Archives  
Research Video, Inc.

*Audio recordings courtesy of:*

Universal Music Classical: "Vissi d'arte"  
from *Tosca* and "O patria mia" from *Aida*  
96.3 WQXR: Carnegie Concert of  
Rememberance

Additional thanks for audio and visual materials:

Ken Howard, Richard Termine, Cincinnati Opera, The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Concert Program Designed by: Katherine L. Ehle

This is a supplementary list to the acknowledgments listed in the Commemorative Program Book.